

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) USUN 899; (B) USUN 1158

ORGANIZATION: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY
GENERAL AND THE UN SECRETARIAT

1. THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF APRIL HAVE SEEN THE PROBLEMS
OF ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT RETURN TO CENTER
STAGE. THE ONGOING QUARREL BETWEEN CONFERENCE SECRETARY
GENERAL DA COSTA AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE UN OFFICE OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OST), STANDKE, HAS NOT YET BEEN
RESOLVED AND HAS COME TO INVOLVE SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM
AND UNDER SECRETARIES GENERAL VAN LAETHEM AND DAVIDSON AS
WELL. AS A RESULT, TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN MINIMAL CONTACT
BETWEEN DE COSTA'S STAFF AND OST ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE
LATTER HAS BEEN DOING ANY WORK DIRECTLY PERTAINING TO THE
CONFERENCE, BUT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH DA COSTA'S
STAFF. IN THE MOST RECENT WRINKLE, OST DIRECTOR STANKE HAS
INCLUDED THE APPOINTMENT OF GRESFORD AS DEPUTY TO DA
COSTA AMONG HIS "UNACCEPTABLES."

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2. DA COSTA DOES NOT HESITATE TO INVOKE THE INTERESTS OF
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT HIS VIEWS. STANDKE
SEEMS TO COUNT ON THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE FRG AND (SOME)
OTHER WEO'S THE MISSION HAS TAKEN A CAREFULLY NEUTRAL PO-
SITION IN THE DISPUTEN, WHILE POINTING OUT TO ALL THAT WE
CONSIDER OST'S CONTRIBUTION AS ESSENTIAL TO
CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. WE HAVE INFORMED STANDKE, HOWEVER,
THAT WE CONSIDER THE GRESFORD APPOINTMENT AS UNRELATED TO
THE QUARREL AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION REACHED IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AT THE 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE ACABQ BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE CONFERENCE BUDGET FOR 1977, ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 4. THE SUBMISSION WAS PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY BY DA COSTA'S STAFF, ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 4. THIS PROCESS SHOULD LEAD TO SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO STAFFING AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONFERENCE PREPARATION..

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

4. TO DATE DA COSTA'S STAFF CONSISTS OF ONLY TWO PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE FORMER OST REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, EINHAUS. TWO LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT (REFTELS), REFERRING TO THE GUIDELINES AND URGING COUNTRIES TO SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, AND/OR MAKE AVAILABLE THE NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS CAPABLE OF SERVING AS ADVISERS FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PAPERS UNDER DIRECT UN AUSPICES. DA COSTA HAS REQUESTED FUNDS FOR 100 MAN/MONTHS OF ADVISER TIME PER YEAR FOR 1977 AND 1978. IT IS PLANNED THAT INDIVIDUAL ADVISERS WOULD GENERALLY BE ASSIGNED TO A COUNTRY FROM TWO TO SIX MONTHS. DA COSTA'S SECRETARIAT WOULD SUBMIT A LIST OF FIVE PROPOSED ADVISERS TO EACH COUNTRY; ONE NOMINEE WOULD BE FROM THE REGION; OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SOCIALIST AND WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO BE REPRESENTED. NO REQUESTS HAVE YET BEEN RECEIVED.

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5. MEANWHILE, DE COSTA HAS MADE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES TO DETERMINE THEIR SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO ENIHAUS, UNDP DIRECTOR MORSE HAS AGREED TO ASK RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO COORDINATE ALL SUPPLEMENTARY ADVISORY ASSISTANCE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR UN AGENCIES HAVING REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIELD.

6. THUS FAR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS HAVE NOT BEGUN ACTIVE PREPARATIONS. MISOFF MET MR. DAVID WASAWO OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) SECRETARIAT DURING A RECENT VISIT. WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING ACASDT MEETING IN NAIROBI AS A MEANS OF STIMULATING REGIONAL INTEREST. HE WAS ALSO RECEPTIVE TO RECEIVING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ALBEIT UNSPECIFIED. THE DEPARTMENT AND AID MAY WISH TO CONTACT ALL UN REGIONAL COMMISSIONS TO DETERMINE THEIR PLANNING RELATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE. IN AFRICA AT LEAST THIS INTEREST IS LIKELY TO BE MOST WELCOME.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE

7. DURING AN EARLIER DISCUSSION IN MARCH, EINHAUS WAS RELATIVELY UNRECEPTIVE TO ANY COORDINATION OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WITH UN EFFORTS. A "FUNDS IN TRUST" ARRANGE-

MENT WAS THE CLEAR PREFERENCE. MUCH WAS MADE OF DA COSTA'S CONTACTS WITH REGIONAL GROUPS DURING THE PREPCOM, DURING WHICH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY THE AFRICANS) REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS THAT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE A MEANS OF INFLUENCING THE PREPARATIONS OF NATIONAL PAPERS. BOTH DA COSTA AND EINHAUS HAVE NOW INDICATED SOME CHANGE OF VIEW ON THE PART OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HENCE, THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO INCLUDE THE NAMES OF BILATERALLY FUNDED EXPERTS -- SPECIFIED AS SUCH -- IN LISTS SENT BY THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT. CONCEIVABLY, BILATERALLY FUNDED ADVISERS COULD WORK IN TANDEM WITH UN ADVISERS, IT WAS NOTED. IN ADDITION, DA COSTA'S SECRETARIAT WOULD BE WILLING TO COORDINATE BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EFFORTS AND TO BRIEF US ADVISERS PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE FIELD.

8. THE MISSION HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT CANADA PLANS TO MAKE A GRANT FOR \$50,000 TO FUND ADDITIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES UNDER UN AEGIS. WHILE SWEDISH DELEGATES TO PREPCOM INFORMALLY INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE ON SOME MULTILATERAL BASIS, NO DEFINITE OFFERS HAVE YET BEEN MADE. THE SWEDES REMAIN VERY INTERESTED IN THE CONFERENCE, AND THEIR CONCERN ABOUT ADEQUATE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PAPERS FULLY PARALLELS OUR OWN. RECENT VISIT OF BAGE RESPONSIBLE FOR CSTD PREPARATION IN THE OF SWEDISH FOREIGN OFFICE, TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON (INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS) IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THIS.

9. WHILE EINHAUS DID NOT REPEAT HIS PREVIOUS INTEREST IN A "FUND IN TRUST" CONTRIBUTION, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DA COSTA WILL MAKE SUCH A REQUEST DURING THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON HE PLANS TO MAKE ONCE OUR COORDINATOR HAS BEEN NAMED.

CONFERENCE TIMING AND SITE

10. DA COSTA, EINHAUS, AND STANDKE ALL REPORT RECENT SIGNS OF WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO POSTPONE THE CONFERENCE, IF NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO PROPERLY PREPARE THEIR NATIONAL PAPERS. THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO MISOFF ALSO BY WASAWO. RELATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE SITE, DA COSTA, EINHAUS, AND BAGE ALL INQUIRED AS TO THE STATUS OF THE US OFFER AND URGED US TO REITERATE IT. WE HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR COMMENTS FROM AMONG NY DELEGATIONS FAVORING OUR INVITATION (MAURITANIA, NORWAY). (MISSION'S STANDARD REPLY IS THAT PREVIOUS POLICY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AND THAT THE INVITATION WAS IN EFFECT RENEWED IN US GENERAL STATEMENT AT PREPCOM.) IF, IN FACT, USG STILL DESIRES TO HOST THE CONFERENCE, MISSION SUGGESTS THIS BE FIRMLY REITERATED WHEN US COORDINATOR IS NAMED. LIKEWISE, WE SHOULD REAF-

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FIRM OUT OPENNESS AS TO THE PRECISE SITE IN THE US.

ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S)

11. BAGE RAISED WITH MISOFF THE POSSIBILITY OF A PARAL-
LEL CONFERENCE SIMILAR TO THAT HELD AT STOCKHOLM ENVIRON-
MENT CONFERENCE AND HABITAT AS A MEANS OF INSURING THE
GREATEST POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION BY NEGO'S. SHOULD THE DE-
PARTMENT SEE VALUE IN THIS IDEA (PARTICULARLY WERE THE
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THE US), IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE
EXPLORING THIS IDEA IN STOCKHOLM.
YOUNG

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